

Attorney Docket No.: J7175(C)
Serial No.: 10/551,823
Filed: July 10, 2006
Confirmation No.: 3927

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): Process according to claim 1-14, wherein the thickening mixture comprises a polymeric thickening mixture thickener is selected from the group consisting of carboxyl methyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethyl carboxymethylcellulose, carrageenin, gum tragacanth, xanthan gum, guar gum, alginates, and bentonite and other natural clays and synthetic inorganic clays.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): Process according to claim 1-14, wherein the thickening mixture also comprises a surfactant.

Claim 5 (currently amended): Process according to claim 1-14, wherein the thickening mixture also comprises a fluoride ion source.

Claim 6 (currently amended): Process according to claim 1-14, wherein the thickening mixture comprises from 0.1 to 20% by weight of the oral composition.

Attorney Docket No.: J7175(C)
Serial No.: 10/551,823
Filed: July 10, 2006
Confirmation No.: 3927

Claim 7 (currently amended): Process according to claim 4 14, wherein the slurry comprises an aqueous suspension of calcium carbonate.

Claim 8 (currently amended): Process according to claim 4 14, wherein the slurry further comprises a humectant.

Claim 9 (currently amended): Process according to claim 4 14, wherein the slurry further comprises a thickening silica.

Claims 10 and 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): Process according to claim 4 14, wherein the slurry is prepared by adding calcium carbonate to a water/humectant mixture.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A continuous process for the manufacture of an oral composition, said method characterised by the following steps comprising:

- (a) preparation of preparing an aqueous suspension of comprising calcium carbonate, a fluoride ion source and a surfactant;
- (b) optional addition of optionally adding further ingredients to said suspension;
- (c) optional de-aeration optionally de-aerating of said suspension;
- (d) addition of adding a thickening mixture under vacuum to said suspension;
- (e) mixing together of said suspension and thickening mixture;

Attorney Docket No.: J7175(C)
Serial No.: 10/551,823
Filed: July 10, 2006
Confirmation No.: 3927

- (f) standing allowing the mixed suspension and thickening mixture to stand for from 30 seconds to 10 minutes or for long enough for the thickening mixture to hydrate and become a resultant oral composition;
- (g) mixing the resultant oral composition from step (f) for from 30 seconds to 10 minutes.

Claim 14 (new): Process for the manufacture of an oral composition, the process comprising:

- (a) preparing a slurry comprising:
 - (i) from 5 to 60% of calcium carbonate as abrasive by weight of the composition;
 - (ii) from 0.05 to 3% of a surfactant by weight of the slurry;
 - (iii) a fluoride ion source in an anti-caries effective amount;
- (b) mixing the slurry;
- (c) preparing a thickening mixture, the mixture comprising:
 - (i) from 0.1 to 5% of a thickener by weight of the composition selected from the group consisting of natural gums, synthetic gums, natural clays and synthetic inorganic clays;
- (d) feeding the thickening mixture under vacuum into the slurry to form the oral composition.

Claim 15 (new): Process according to claim 14, wherein feeding of the thickening mixture under vacuum occurs by way of a coaxial injector.